REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9 and 10 were rejected.

Claims 3, 7, and 8 were objected to.

Claims 2, 3, and 6-10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 6-10 are newly canceled in this supplemental reply.

No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 11, and 12 are currently pending in the present application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 3, 7, and 8 include allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

As noted in the response dated April 2, 2009, in the interests of furthering prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the features of allowable claim 3 and all intervening claims. New claim 11 recites the features of allowable claim 7, and all intervening claims. New claim 12 recites the features of allowable claim 8, and all intervening claims. No new matter has been added.

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,520,042 to Jammer et al. ("Jammer").

As noted in the response dated April 2, 2009, claim 1 was amended to include the features of allowable claim 3. It is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is now in immediate condition for allowance.

Claims 6, 9 and 10 have been canceled, rendering the rejection moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1, and dependent claims 6, 9, and 10, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on Jammer is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jammer in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0040067 to Murakami et al. ("Murakami").

As noted in the response dated April 2, 2009, claim 4 depends from allowable amended independent claim 1.

Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Jammer and Murkami is respectfully requested.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jammer and Murakami, and further in view of International Publication No. WO/1994/027057 to Takata ("Takata").

As noted in the response dated April 2, 2009, claim 5 depends from allowable amended independent claim 1.

Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Jammer, Murkami, and Takata is respectfully requested.

New Claims

As noted in the response dated April 2, 2009, new claims 11 and 12 have been added. New claim 11 is essentially allowable claim 7 rewritten in independent form. New claim 12 is essentially allowable claim 8 rewritten in independent form. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 11 and 12 are in immediate condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Each and every point raised in the Office Action dated February 2, 2009 has been addressed on the basis of the foregoing amendments and remarks. In view of the foregoing, it is believed that each of the pending claims is in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Dated: April 23, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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